

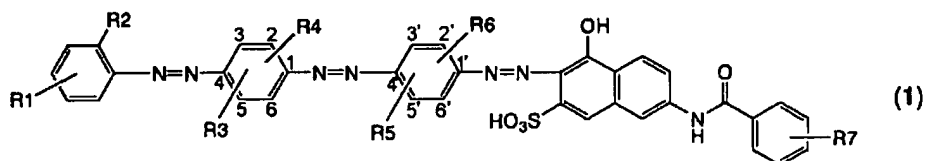
Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) An azo compound represented by the following formula (1) or a salt thereof, or a copper complex compound of the azo compound or the salt thereof:

[Formula 1]



wherein one of R1 and R2 each independently represents a sulfo group and the other represents a carboxyl group, a methyl group or a methoxy group, the bonding position of R1 is a para-position with respect to the azo group, a carboxyl group, a lower alkyl group or a lower alkoxy group, R3 represents a methyl lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group or an acetylamino group, R4-R6 each independently represents R4 represents a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl methyl group or a methoxy group, a lower alkoxy group or an acetylamino group, R5 represents a methyl group, R6 represents a methyl group or a methoxy group, and R7 represents a hydrogen atom, an amino group located in the para-position in respect to the -NHCO- or a hydroxyl group.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently amended) A polarizing film containing in a substrate of the polarizing film the azo compound or a salt thereof, or a copper complex compound of the azo compound or the salt thereof according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-5~~.
7. (Currently amended) A polarizing film containing in a substrate of the polarizing film the azo compound or a salt thereof, or a copper complex compound of the azo compound or the salt thereof according to ~~any one of claims 1-5~~ claim 1 and at least one of other organic dyes.
8. (Original) A polarizing film according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the substrate of the polarizing film is a film comprising a polyvinyl alcohol-based resin.
9. (Currently amended) A polarizing film according to ~~any one of claims 6-8~~ claim 6 or 7, which is for liquid crystal projector.
10. (Currently amended) A polarizing plate having the polarizing film according to ~~any one of claims 6-9~~ claim 6 or 7.